(b) Yes, Sir. No international experts/valuers were engaged to evaluate the deal.

(c) Acquisition of Admiral Gorshkov will enhance offensive capability of Navy and work as a major deterrent factor.

Import of bullet proof jackets

123. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to import bullet-proof jackets for our Jawans to fight with terrorists and enemies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any field tests have been conducted;

(d) if so, the out come of the field tests; and

(e) the specifications that the Ministry has set in for importing bullet proof jackets?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The General Service Qualitative Requirement (GSQR) for the Bullet Proof Jackets have been revised and based on these revised GSQRs a case for procurement of one lakh Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) is under process. A Global Techno-Commercial "Request For Proposal" (RFP) for procurement of Bullet Proof Jackets was issued to 89 foreign and 19 Indian firms on 23-01-2002. Offers received in response thereto were technically evaluated by a Committee headed by Deputy Master General of Ordnance and samples of the firms so selected by the Committee were trial-evaluated at Infantry School, Mhow. Finally, the firms whose samples of Bullet Proof Jackets have passed the trials have been short-listed by the trial team. The final picture will emerge only after the trials are completed fully. The specifications prescribed for Indian as well as foreign vendors are the same.

Recruitment of foreign nationals in defence forces

124. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the nationals of PoK and Bangladesh have been recruited in the Defence forces through recruitment centres as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to recheck the antecedents of new recruits in Defence forces in the past few years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Grounding of Sukhoi-30 Fighters

125. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sukhoi-30 fighter planes have been grounded on detection of 'nicks' in the engine blandes; and

(b) if so, the action taken to get the defective parts replaced free of cost by the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft fleet has not been grounded on detection of "nicks" in the engine blades. However, in some Sukhoi-30 fighter engines defects were noticed during routine check up. These engines can be repaired.

(b) Russian specialists have inspected the defective engines. The repair of the routine/normal defects, covered under warranty, will be undertaken by the manufacturer. Those engines, which have completed warranty life, will be repaired at the cost of Ministry of Defence.

Occupation of defence land

126. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private parties including Army Wives Welfare Association who have been occupying defence lands and have not got lease agreement renewed;